

Local businesses support LPIE over the holidays

Submitted by Rachel Blatt



Rachel Blatt, Lisa Spiegler, Teli Thayer, Amy Parlett, Tressa Rust and Myrna Kimmelman enjoy a night out as part of LPIE's Giving Tuesday. Photo provided

For the second year, Lafayette restaurants and retailers came out to support Lafayette Partners in Education this holiday season. Kicking off with Giving Tuesday on Nov. 28, five local restaurants – Barranco, Rustic Tavern, The Cooperage, Bonehead's Texas BBQ, Patxi's Pizza, and California Pizza Kitchen in Walnut Creek

– offered a percent of sales that day to LPIE. Diners were treated to holiday music provided by Acalanes High School and Stanley Middle School performers. "The night was a huge success," said Merilee McCormick, owner of The Cooperage. "Guests were thrilled to dine and know they are supporting such a great organization, their community and children. The Cooperage was pleased to be included in such a great event."

Continuing the holiday cheer, LPIE followed up with two shopping days on Dec. 7 and 14 in which retailers and Pizza Anti-

ca also offered a portion of sales to support LPIE. Clocks etc., J McLaughlin, Alicia Klein Showroom, A Runner's Mind, Specialtees, Learning Express and Lamorinda Music all participated. HoneyBear Trees, FormaGym and Sports Basement also offered percent of sales towards LPIE during the holiday season.

Working directly with the Lafayette and Acalanes Union High School Districts, LPIE is a community-based foundation that helps maintain the hallmarks of an education rich in science, math, music, art, technology, foreign language, humanities and electives and supporting programs and efforts that might otherwise go unfunded.

"Unfortunately, state fund and parcel taxes don't provide enough funding to meet the need of our schools," says LPIE President Amy Parlett, "Thanks to our community partners this holiday season, we were able to raise additional funds to help meet our goal of our 2017-18 goal of \$3.2 million."

Dons show true spirit

Submitted by Louise Laemmlen



Photos provided

The Dons women's varsity soccer team players' spirit really shined through when they made care packets, which they handed out at games all season long, and had two volunteer opportunities this season at

the Alameda County Food Bank and the Janet Pomeroy Recreation and Rehabilitation Center to reach out to the broader community to raise awareness that a good deed can make a huge difference in the lives of others.



Community Service: We are pleased to make space available whenever possible for some of Lamorinda's dedicated community service organizations to submit news and information about their activities. Submissions may be sent to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com with the subject header In Service to the Community.

Share Your Celebrations and Remembrances

If you would like to share an announcement about a special event or achievement, such as a wedding, engagement, scholarship or graduation of a local resident, or about a special person from Lamorinda who has passed, send a photo along with your text (up to 250 words) to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com, and include "Celebrations and Remembrances" in the subject line.

Keeping up with the Hendersons

By John T. Miller



Kim, Adam, Tom, Nick, Grant and Spencer Henderson after a game at Acalanes against Alhambra. Photo provided

An incomparable athletic dynasty at Acalanes High School is about to come to an end with the graduation of Nick Henderson this spring.

The Henderson family has dominated the football and baseball fields at the local school for the past 10 years through four sons, Spencer, Grant, Tommy, and Nick.

Their dad Adam estimates that he and his wife Kim have been to about 500 high school contests between the four athletes. "We've rarely missed any of their games and have loved every minute of it," he says. "We'll still go see Cal baseball games with Tommy and there'll be football for Nick at the college level."

They've all been scholar-athletes and all have been named captains for their respective teams.

"To me," says Adam, "the role of captain has been greatest for the kids. It takes them out of being self-centered and focuses them on the efforts of the team."

Here's a rundown of the four student-athlete's individual accomplishments:

Spencer (2012). All-DFAL in football (as a senior) and baseball (junior), and Male Athlete of the Year for Acalanes his senior season.

As a left-handed pitcher and first baseman he finished with a career 18-3 record to help the Dons win the NCS baseball title in 2012. He was a two-way starter in football, playing quarterback and middle linebacker.

Recruited by multiple schools, including Stanford, Spencer chose UC Davis because they allowed him to play both sports. He played one year of football before focusing on baseball. Against Nevada-Reno, he was the winning pitcher and drove in all the runs for Davis. He earned All-Conference honors in the Big West and got his 'cup-of-coffee' in the minor leagues before deciding to give up baseball and move on with the rest of his life.

Grant (2014). All-DFAL honors in baseball as a junior and senior and helped the team to three consecutive CIF NCS Division III titles. Grant, a catcher, who threw right and batted left, hit .438 his junior year and .389 as a senior.

He was also an all-DFAL linebacker but injuries limited his playing time. He suffered a torn ACL his junior year, but rehabbed enough to get back on both playing fields. He tore the same ACL four games into his senior football season, but once again rehabbed and was ready for baseball.

"He worked his tail off and was a great inspiration in overcoming the adversity," says his proud father. "Unfortunately, he tore

ligaments in his ankle in a collision at home plate, and then an arm injury ended his career."

UC Davis honored his baseball scholarship and the team invited him to work in the broadcast booth and help the sports trainers. "Although it devastated him to give up the sport," said Adam, "he embraced the rest of what the campus had to offer."

Grant joined the Outdoor Adventures program and became a raft guide and, in his senior year at Davis, is also a ski instructor at Sugar Bowl.

Tommy. All-DFAL honors as a junior, and MVP of the Foothill League his senior season in baseball and all-league his junior and senior seasons in football. He started four years of varsity baseball at Acalanes as an infielder and three years as linebacker and running back in football.

He batted .365 and helped the Dons to a CIF NCS Division III title. Their 26-2 record is the best ever compiled at the school.

Tommy was the first Henderson to break the mold and committed to UC-Berkeley, even though he had an offer to play for Davis. Adam and Kim were happy they at least didn't have to change colors!

Tommy redshirted last year and should play on the infield this season.

Nick. Now a senior at Acalanes, Nick is weighing multiple offers to play football, including UC Davis.

Nick was a first team all-league selection and defensive MVP for the Dons, notching back-to-back seasons with over a hundred tackles from his linebacker position. He also played on special teams and offense. He helped lead the team to a 9-2 record, including a win over state runner-up Campolindo.

He's currently working hard in the weight room and should handle one of the power hitting spots in the lineup this spring.

Adam and Kim. Mom and Dad have certainly influenced the family. Adam credits his last minute decision to play at UC Davis under legendary coach Jim Sochor as having a profound influence on his life. He won all-Conference honors for the Aggies both his junior and senior years.

Kim grew up on a cattle ranch and the two met at UC Davis. She quit work after their third son was born to take on the full-time job of running the family.

The Henderson's contributions run far beyond their son's successes. On a plaque outside the Don's sports field, they are listed as impactful donors to the Acalanes sports programs.

Lafayette mayor joins Stanley students in annual concert

Submitted by Kerwin Lee



Photo Kerwin Lee

Lafayette Mayor Don Tatzin performed on his euphonium with Stanley Middle School Symphonic Band students Jan. 19 during the school's annual Concert for the Mayor, hosted by the Stanley music

department under the direction of Bob Athayde. Not only did Tatzin attend and play with the students, he also provided cookies for the performers, which he baked.